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ABSTRACT

In discussing sexual behavior as part of and as a result of the total personality, it is appropriate to examine all aspects of a person's handwriting rather than examining only lower looped components in evaluating sexual disturbances. The development of sexual mores and sex roles in our culture from the early Greeks, Romans, and Hebrews through the Middle Ages to the present adds a religious aspect to sex in our culture that leads to repressive sex approaches and perversion not found in cultures where no religious taint of sinfulness is attached to sex. An examination of writing samples of people who have sexual difficulties indicates specific sexual maladjustments and other nonsexual personality characteristics reflected in the handwriting that are part of the sexual maladjustment. Such characteristics include aggressiveness, passivity, and avoidance of close interpersonal relationships. Included with the paper is a scoring method to ascertain specific degrees of strength for desire and control. (TJ)

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EVALUATING SEXUAL BEHAVIOR FROM WRITING CHARACTERISTICS

BY
LESLIE W. KING

INTRODUCTION

Understanding sexual behavior in writing is predicated upon understanding it in relationship to the culture where the behavior occurs. Toward this goal, the analyst needs to appreciate how our sexual mores have been enculturated during the past two thousand years, beginning with the conversion of the Roman naturalism regarding sex to the Judo-Christian "sexophobia" that still influences us culturally today...

American sex customs are characterised by the Judo-Christian sex culture which is responsible for repressive sex approaches that have led to perversions. Margaret Mead says that, among cultures where sex has no religious taint of sinfulness attached, no sex perversions exist.

Enculturation is an emotional method of influencing our ideas and behavior without the involvement of our logic and reason from infancy to puberty - by which time we have absorbed our culture. The ideas we hold and our resultant attitudes and behaviors have their roots in our childhood training.

This paper will present, first, a superficial overview of the development of sexual mores and sex roles from the dark ages to the present. Second, I will present reasons why, in

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my opinion, so-called deviant writing characteristics in the lower looped components of letters should not be dealt with separately from the rest of the written text. The text represents the sum total of the personality and includes the value systems and conditioning influences, genetic factors, physical health, endocrine system, central nervous system and the cerebral cortex as well as some pertinent personality factors such as the individual's sense of self worth, power of imagery and capacity for motivation.

After introducing a logical foundation for treating sexual behavior as a part of the whole personality and therefore the whole writing, a methodological approach to analyzing sexual behavior from writing will be discussed. Writing specimens will be used to illustrate a range of sex problems and desires. It is important to recognize that what might be a problem between two people of opposite requirements may not be a problem at all between two other personalities although the same group of characteristics might conceivably appear in the two couples' writings. Sexual behavior then, is a component part of interpersonal involvement.

The writing specimens and the methodology will be oriented toward specifying whether or not the individual is over-controlled or overly uninhibited with discussion of the range of behaviors in between. Anything more definitive than this is, in this author's opinion, too controversial. Unless a syndrome of characteristics can be shown to accurately and consistently discriminate between normals and so-called deviants, graphologists tread in very risky areas. Psychologists and psychiatrists themselves, cannot agree on theoretical explanations - or even on the proper classification of "sexual disturbance". The age old nature versus nurture controversy still exists (division between those who believe deviance is genetic, those who say it is improper rearing practices and those who say it is a matter of conditioning and reinforcing influences).

What is problem behavior often depends upon the cultural point of view. Eldene Whiting, in her report of a pilot study to discriminate among homosexuals, suspected homosexuals and so-called normals, brings this point out very well.

In preparation for this paper, I inquired about scholarly references correlating sexual behavior and handwriting analysis of the Institute for Sex Research at Indiana University. I learned that the Institute has a library of over 34,000 references and is adding to its library at the rate of 500 books and 1500 reprints of articles annually but has no graphological research pertaining to handwriting and sex behavior. For a research paper, this leaves only two alternatives (1) accept graphological theory which is empirical and, by the statement of several authors, inconclusive or (2) combine graphological theory with researched facts from other disciplines. I have chosen the latter approach.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Once we understand the culture which influenced the sexual behaviors of the people we deal with as analysts, including the different behaviors and attitudes of men and women, we can understand their sexual needs and responses in or out of handwriting.

To understand the sexual behavior of the American people we have to go back to our ancestors who were instrumental in enculturating our parents and grandparents who, in turn, gave us the values we hold today. To do this, we have to move back even further historically to view ancient religious attitudes in the context of how they influenced people's beliefs and behaviors down through the centuries. I believe that only by tracing cultural mores from their origins can we have a thorough appreciation for the sexual behavior we find symbolically in handwriting and in reality. Graphological theory can benefit by constantly updating itself through reality checks and by keeping abreast of and reflecting contemporary psychological attitudes.

As example: In this century, in 1910, a book called "Plain Facts for Both Sexes" by J. H. Kellogg, stated: "The best mothers, wives and managers of households know little to nothing of sexual indulgence. Love of home, children, of domestic duties, are the only passions they feel. She submits to her husband only to please him." Such a Victorian attitude as this can also be found influencing graphological literature with regard to defining sexual needs from writing characteristics.

The idea of women's submission and man's dominance has been of influence in graphology when analysts seek passivity and emotionality and submission in the rounded writing for a wife and aggression, energy, and initiative in a linear and heavy pressured writing for a husband when doing marriage counseling. Following the early ideas in psychiatry, from whence came much graphology research, graphologists look for over-emphasis of influence from a domineering or aggressive mother and correspondingly weak father influence or they search for evidence of meekness and withdrawal. Phallic symbols in writing have appeared important to graphologists at a time when the psychoanalytic approach to psychology was in its prime.

Sexual practices are infinitely varied and almost totally conditioned by the mores of the relevant culture. For example, centuries ago, the ear symbolized the female sex organs and the word for ear was sometimes used as the word for the female organs. Jugoslav folk tales talk about "ears between the legs" and, in a medieval Latin hymn, the Virgin Mary conceived thru the ear. Buddha was supposed to have been born from the ear. In Egypt, 4,000 years ago, the punishment for an adultress was

to have her ears cut off. And, a practice that has come down to us today under a different guise, piercing a female's ears, was a rite related to puberty in Burma when a girl reached womanhood.

The devaluation of sex has been culturally significant down through the ages. A possible reflection of this may exist in the fact that, until 1382, no word for sex existed in the western world. The first reference to sex as a word appeared in a translation of the Bible when the translator, Wycliff, employed it to distinguish between male and female. Not until 250 years later was it used in reference to sexual behavior.

According to the William J. Robinson medical and sex dictionary compiled in 1933, the word apparently had its origin in Roman Catholic Theology. It derives from the Latin "sexus" meaning to cut or divide and is the number of the sixth commandment proscribing adultry. By 1953, a definition of the word sex in the MacMillan Medical Dictionary simply stated that it distinguished between male-female. In 1965, the English and English Comprehensive Dictionary of Psychological and Psychoanalytical terms referred to sex as a general term for anything sexual related to reproduction. It was further distinguished from erotic which word they state is preferred for references to sensations, feelings and motives unless the motives relate to sex drive. By 1972, Webster's New World Dictionary referred to the word sex as, "anything connected with sexual gratification or reproduction or the urge for these, especially the attraction of individuals of one sex for another."

Women's status and role in a given culture at a given historical period seems to be closely linked with religion and property values. Assigned freedom or lack of freedom associated with male and female roles were an outgrowth of these. Down through the centuries, the status of women has placed very low. In my opinion, this should have a very significant bearing on understanding and interpreting a variety of kinds of writing characteristics with relation to sexual behavior.

For example, in a research study that investigated the degree of self esteem of a group of male prisoners, I found the relatively low esteem to be a probable contributing factor to criminal behavior. However, the lowest score for self esteem for males was higher than the majority of scores belonging to a group of women who were not in and never had been in criminal trouble.

Related to this is a statement by Dr. Cyril Bibby, principal of a college of education. He said, "Confidence in oneself and in one's partner encourages successful loving" and that it is impossible to give unreservedly of oneself to another unless one is first in complete possession of his or

her own self. He also stated that loving implies an interaction of minds and emotions as well as the sexual behavior.

THE EARLY GREEKS

Greek marriage required the proper purchase of a wife. She was considered a friend, housekeeper, mother of lawful children - but not a sexual companion. She was not permitted a social life after marriage; chastity and fidelity on her part were her obligations while her husband was free to seek both courtesans and young boys in sexual encounters. Greek males enjoyed a rewarding, varied sexual life with no repressions in the Freudian sense and no perversions in the true sense of the word. The naked human body was glorified.

THE EARLY ROMANS

The difference between the Greeks and Romans was greatest if viewed through their sexual customs although both viewed marriage economically.

In early Roman days, three forms of marriage prevailed, including one form that is still prevalent today: common law marriage. There was one type of marriage for the aristocracy; another for the commoner and a third that involved the couple living together for a year in equal partnership. This latter was the only type that did not give ownership of the woman to the husband and he did not have complete power over her which, in early Roman times included life and death.

In later historic times, the Roman wife was given a greater amount of privilege and dignity although marriage itself was still primarily a social and economic arrangement. The marriage rituals were greatly simplified with only the bridal procession and nuptial dinner surviving (to the present day). The double standard continued. Males were free to indulge their sexual inclinations with but one restriction - they were not to seduce another man's wife. The married female who was caught in infidelity could be punished by death or banishment because her act invalidated her children's legitimate inheritance of property.

THE EARLY HEBREWS

The Hebrew culture was based on the idea that their laws were God-given. The family was patriarchial, with the father having the power of life and death over his children; and the right to divorce his wife although a like right was denied the wife.

Hebrew attitudes toward sex were severely restricted with any sexual behavior that did not lead to procreation considered a direct offense against God. Therefore, masturbation,

prostitution and homosexuality were all considered capital offenses, punishable by being stoned to death. A bride who could not prove her virginity to the elders with a bloodstained cloth was also punished with death by stoning. In the patriarchial system, it was believed that a man assured his own immortality through having offspring. If he were unable to be sure the children ensuing from a marriage were his own sons who would carry on his name and identity, his right of immortality was threatened.

The double standard thereby existed. A man's brides represented the soil in which he sowed his seed to obtain immortality and it was imperative that they were virgins at marriage and remained chaste thereafter. To commit adultery, therefore, meant a woman paid the penalty of being stripped naked in public, which was considered a terrible crime before God. A man, however, was permitted polygamous marriage and concubines, as many as desired according to his wealth.

THE EARLY CHRISTIANS

Most of the early Christians were of low socio-economic status and were hostile to the upper class. This hostility was in part responsible for their embracing opposite cultural practices from the upper classes. Christianity rejected sex as being a natural behavior which was accepted by the Hebrews. The Christians reviled sex as an abomnation before God or they renounced it as a means of pleasing God. Some early Christian males castrated themselves as a means of showing contrition before God. Marriage became a necessary evil solely for the purpose of producing children. In this sense, the Hebrew idea of immortality persisted in the Christian culture. Women were regarded as the incarnation of sin yet they were given respect as mothers - a dualistic view of the spirit and the flesh that persisted well into the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

THE MIDDLE AGES

Ancient cultural mores continued influencing the development of religious and cultural values through more recent history to the present. Note how our values in the United States still bear resemblances to those of one thousand years ago.

In the Middle Ages (1066 - 1516), sexual desire was considered sinful unless offspring were the possible outcome. With the Norman conquest, the idea of chivalry was introduced which had the effect of glorifying love without admitting sexual desire. There developed the idea that sex was excusable if done in the name of love, a philosophy that was only practiced by a small minority in the upper class.

Late in the Middle Ages, in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, witch hunts were initiated by the Catholic Church

in an anti-erotic drive that considered women as possessed by the Devil because they stimulated erotic desires in men. The witch hunts stimulated exorcism, persecutions, intolerance and psychotic behaviors that included self-flaggelation.

THE RENAISSANCE AND REFORMATION

Beginning in Italy in the fourteenth century, the Renaissance marked the transition from the medieval world to the modern, spreading gradually to other countries throughout Europe. The Reformation was a religious movement that eventually caused the birth of the Protestant religions.

In England, sexuality appeared in novels and behind the scenes among the upper classes. Not until Queen Elizabeth's reign did the Reformation influence of the German Martin Luther (1483-1546) and the French John Calvin (1509-1564) exert itself.

Both Luther and Calvin believed that sex was a necessary evil with reproduction its only reason for being. They felt that even in marriage, sex had to be restricted. They also believed that, since woman had originally tempted man, she had relinquished all right to happiness in this world and the next. Further, because the children of the original sinful parents (Adam and Eve) and their descendants were to be punished forever, there could be only one possible salvation. This salvation lay in the promise made by Christ's sacrifice on the cross but, according to Luther's and Calvin's interpretation, proof was required whether or not the salvation was for a specific individual

This was the beginning of the Protestant Work Ethic that prevails in our society today. It was thought that the more good works you did, the more wealth and property you accumulated, the more the proof that you were favored and thereby saved.

THE PROTESTANT WORK ETHIC

It was the Protestant Work Ethic that was brought to the United States. England's sexuality never took hold on our shores; instead, we had the Puritans who condemned everything sexual.

The double standard persisted in Colonial America, although punishment was sometimes meted out to both males and females. In cases of adultery in the New England states where Puritanism was most severe, women were flogged, put to death or burned in the face with a hot iron; men paid a fine and/or spent a few hours in the pillory. Some historians believe that the incidence of sodomy came into practice in New England due to the stern religious laws.

In the Middle Eastern states, sex customs were varied because the settlers' cultural backgrounds themselves were varied. Women and children enjoyed a somewhat higher status but the double standard persisted. In New Jersey, premarital intercourse was a crime for which the man received 30 lashes across his naked back and the woman received 35. In Delaware, sodomy and rape were capital offenses punishable by death. In Maryland, polygamy and rape or sodomy were capital offenses.

In the Southern states, the double standard persisted. Upper class white men exploited negro men and lower class white females. Promiscuity was the rule for men while upper class females put their premarital chastity and marital fidelity on the marriage market under the cloak of "good" woman.

THE RELATIONSHIP OF PAST PRACTICES TO PRESENT

We have been talking about hundreds of years ago, yet some of the values that I have just mentioned are current in our own lifetime.

The writing in Specimen I is the writing of an eighteen year old female whose mother brought her up to believe that a wife's duties in marriage were demeaning. She had never had the facts of life explained to her and, in puberty when the menses began, she thought for months that she had done something to injure herself - until a more knowledgeable older friend explained that what had happened was normal. At 21 years of age, she was allowed to marry without knowing the anatomical difference between men and women. The shock on her wedding night (on board a cruise ship for their honeymoon) was so great that she ran out of the stateroom and paced the deck all night.

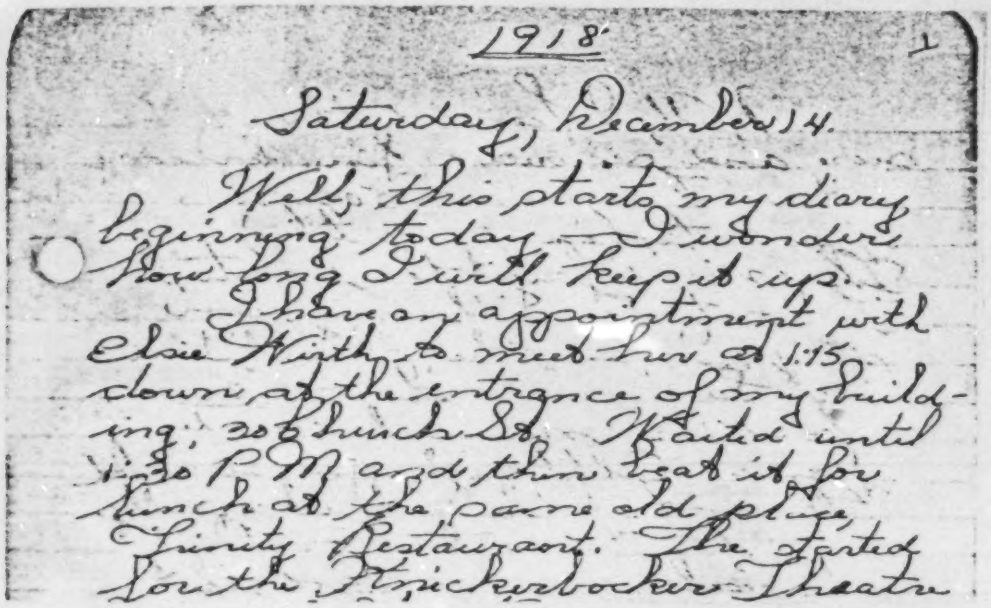
The lower zone in her writing shows distortion but her entire writing shows anxiety in the flattened oval formations, the extremely light pressure, the too frequent disconnections that fragment one and two syllabel words. There is also evidence of respiratory disturbance seen in the concave forms in the upper and lower loops.

To worsen matters for her, her husband was unable to consummate their marriage and she went to a doctor at his urging to have an operation on her hymen. The doctor remarked callously, at her pain and fright, that that's what she got for not permitting her husband to do it. Later, her husband's physically violent rape of a 12 year old girl caused this woman to divorce her husband in an era when divorce was severely criticized. The writer of specimen I never remarried.

This is not a terribly extreme case of Victorian influence that ruined a life, although of course there were many other factors involved in this case history. Freud's theory of the unconscious was based on the idea that sexual conflicts were the cause of hysteria in middle class German women (the ma-

SPECIMEN 1a

Note the directional pressure (concave) forms in both the upper and lower loops, flattened ovals and very triangular "f-loop" as well as extremely light pressure.



1918 1

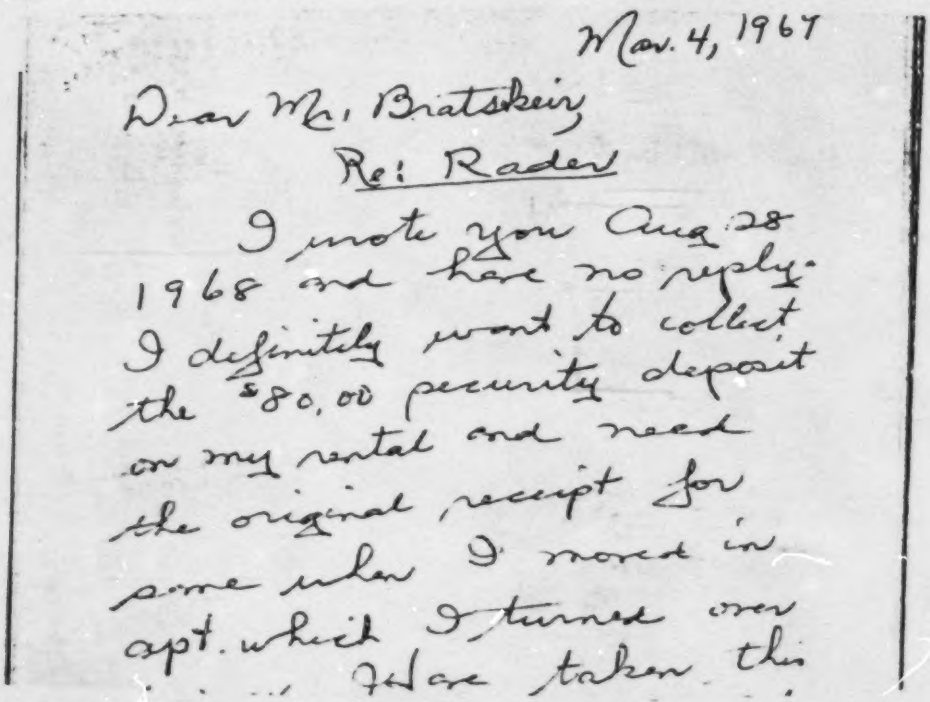
Saturday, December 14.

Well, this starts my diary beginning today — I wonder how long I will keep it up.

I have an appointment with Elsie Wirth to meet her at 1:15 down at the entrance of my building; 206 Church St. Waited until 1:30 P.M. and then went it for lunch at the same old place, Trinity Restaurant. Then started for the Knickerbocker Theatre

SPECIMEN 1b

In this specimen, word and baseline spacing have widened, many letter forms appear flattened and the amount of directional pressure and triangular formations have increased. Pressure remains as light as it was 51 years earlier.



Nov. 4, 1967

Dear Mr. Bratskeir,

Re: Rader

I wrote you Aug 28 1968 and have no reply. I definitely want to collect the $80.00 security deposit on my rental and need the original receipt for same when I moved in apt. which I turned over ... Have taken this

jority of his patients on whom his theory was developed). The fear, anxiety and hysterical (extreme) reactions of this writer to sex caused not only a distorted view of marriage but anxiety took its toll on her physiologically as well. Fifty-two years later she died of phlebitis and emphysema, both of which were illustrated in her 18 year old writing.

A client of mine, in her early thirties, had been brought up in Germany by a mother who dwelled on the theme that men wanted only one thing from women and that life, for a woman, was harsh and unrewarding. The mother controlled her husband's behavior with reward or refusal of marital sex and days of silence if she was displeased.

In her early twenties, the writer of Specimen II left Germany and settled in the United States. She led a rewarding business life but had no men friends. One by one, as her girlfriends married, she thought more and more about marriage herself and sought psychiatric help to overcome her unreasonable fear of men. When this didn't work, she spent a year in group therapy but finally dropped out. Then began a round of seeking help from every source including primal scream therapy and transactional analysis. By the time she reached graphology all she desired was self understanding and peace of mind.

Today she is a successful real estate broker in her forties, still unmarried, but with peace of mind, self acceptance and greatly improved interpersonal relationships.

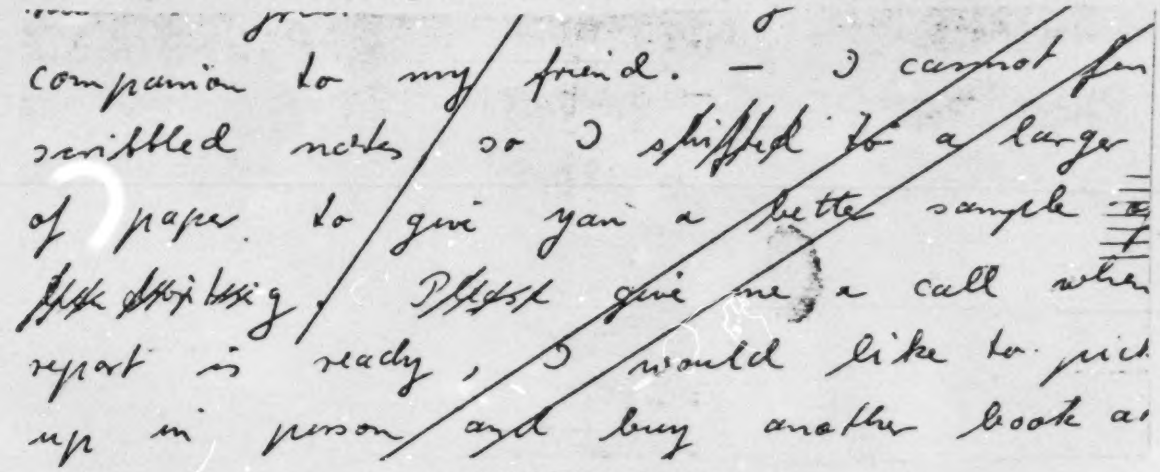
THE MOTHER OF SPECIMEN 2a

Note the extreme degree of rigidity in all writing characteristics: baseline, alignment, size, spacing.

Wünsche liegen tief in meinem Herzen. Im allgemeinen wünschen wir Dir, wie immer, alles Gute, viel Gesundheit, viel Freude, Zufriedenheit und zum Besten dazu, was Dir am meisten am Herzen liegt. Zum Geburtstagsgeschenk kommt Du Dir auch selber aber bald. Die Reise muß doch auch bezahlt werden. Zu berichten gibt es weiß weiter nichts. Im vergangenen Brief war ja alles enthalten. Papa geht es gut, mir einigermaßen, so sind wir zufrieden. Wir haben seit Heilig-Abend einen wunderbaren weißen Winter. Die Kinder werden sich freuen, daß sie draußen tummeln können. Ich glaube in Naumburg wird auch viel Schnee sein. Heute mache Feld nach Wismar, um sich in einem neuen Posten einarbeiten zu lassen. Ich bin ja so gespannt auf den nächsten Brief.

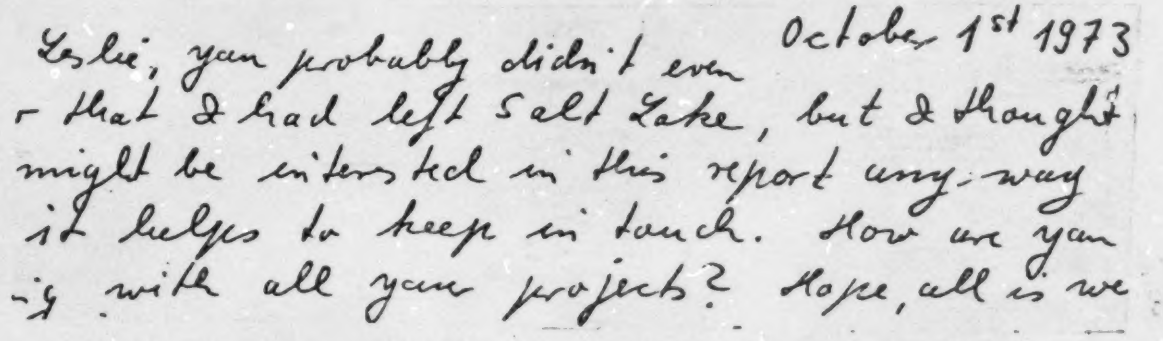
SPECIMEN 2a

Note the broad spacing between words and baselines indicating avoidance of close interpersonal relationships and extreme discrimination. Note the disconnected lower looped letter forms from the middle zone, illustrating avoidance of close personal contact on a physical level. The abbreviated lower loops that do not reach the baseline add to this and also indicate lack of sexual fulfillment. Poor self concept is seen in the personal pronoun I and the extremely small heights of some of the middle zone letters. All of these characteristics illustrate a lonely, fearful, frustrated young lady with sex problems. Avoidance of sex at her age is not normal and indicates the existence of problems. The poor self concept or feelings of inadequacy intensifies the problems.


companion to my freind. — I cannot
scribbled notes so I shifted to a large
of paper to give you a better sample
writing. Please give me a call when
report is ready, I would like to pick
up in person and buy another book a

SPECIMEN 2b

The sex problems still exist in this writing but the isolation and fear is greatly diminished. Note the improved word and baseline spacing; the increased number of lower zone forms connected to the middle zone; the change in the form of the personal pronoun I. These changes are the effect of improved self acceptance. The writer did not undertake graphotherapy.


October 1st 1973
Leslie, you probably didn't even
that I had left Salt Lake, but I thought
might be interested in this report anyway
it helps to keep in touch. How are you
ing with all your projects? Hope all is we

With objective comparison, a number of present day ideas and practices can easily be related to those of hundreds and, in some cases, thousands of years ago. The Early Hebrews were a Patriarchy and plural marriage was practiced for the purpose of having children. In Utah today, some 30,000 poly-

gamists continue this practice as a way of life to insure obtaining a higher place for themselves in heaven. The man is considered the religious leader in the household and is supposed to hold Church for his wives. It is believed that he answers directly to God and that his wives answer directly to him. As it was for the early Hebrews, the Fundamentalists believe sexual behavior is only acceptable if done for the purpose of procreation.

Another country with present day practices that hark back to the early Hebrews is Iran. When I lived there in 1958-1960, I went to many village weddings at the invitation of my Iranian students who owned the villages. I learned that brides had to prove their virginity to the elders of the husband's village by showing a bloodstained cloth the morning after the marriage was consummated. If the bride could not show her virginity in this fashion, the elders cast her out of the village. Her own village would not permit her return because of the disgrace. There was nowhere for her to go except into prostitution. In Iran, prostitution flourished so widely that the women often presented their business cards to men on the streets even when the men were accompanied by their wives or girlfriends.

In the United States, during the first several decades of this century, middle and lower class women who had premarital experience with their boyfriends felt it was acceptable so long as it was done "in the name of love", which harked back to the Middle Ages philosophy.

Still to be found is the idea of woman's place; and religious philosophy still influences the view of how a woman may fulfill herself. In the Equal Rights Amendment fight in Utah, the President of the LDS Church issued a statement to the effect that a woman was fulfilled by being a good wife and mother and that she did not have to go out to work to attain her potential. In the eyes of the Church, she fulfilled herself by being a helpmate to her husband and by subordinating herself to him. The implication was that she was selfish if she left her home and family to go to work. Apparently this had the effect of making many women feel guilty about working for I heard an increased number of explanations for working.

These are illustrations of the correlation between present day practices and the past in sections of the world where I have lived and experienced them. I am certain the same kinds of correlations can be drawn with any religious group, any section of the United States and any country in the world.

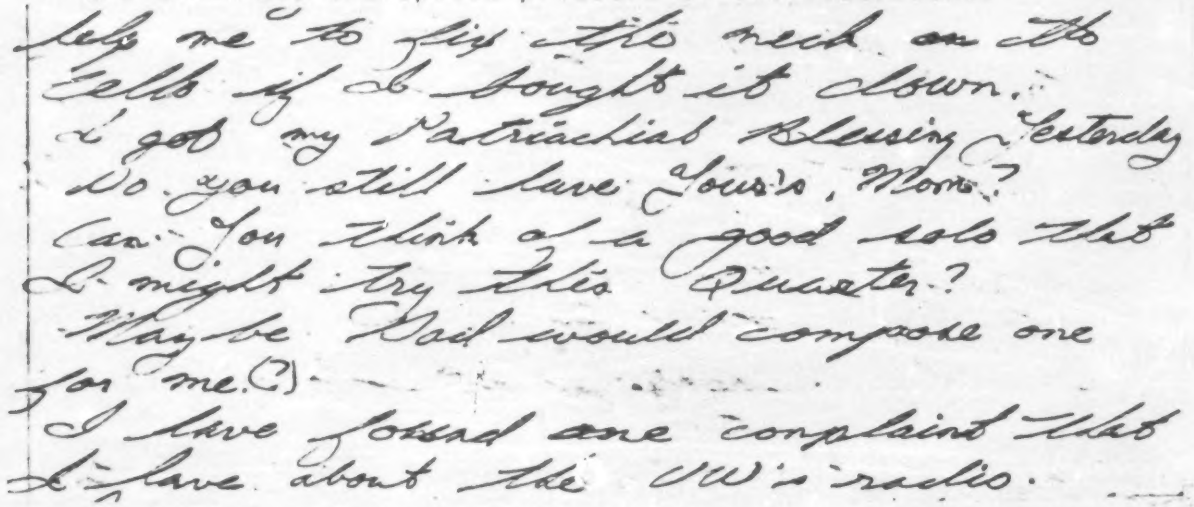
RESEARCH

This is the writing of a young convert to the LDS Church. For a number of years, he looked forward to being called to go on a mission for the Church which was considered a singular honor. When he was called, he was invited to a hearing at

which his entire life was reviewed. During the course of the questioning, he was asked if he masturbated and he acknowledged that he did. The Bishop told him that, unless he stopped, he could not go on the mission and he was given a year in which to break the habit. The writing specimen was taken during the year when the young man was preoccupied with trying to eliminate what he understood to be a despicable sexual behavior.

SPECIMEN 3

Note that the pastosity, which is prevalent throughout the writing, is confined to the middle and upper zones. The lower zone is not only devoid of pastosity but is inappropriately light in pressure for a young man of 22 years. Note also the abnormal width of some of the lower zone loops indicating preoccupation. The pastosity indicates the abnormal degree of sexual desire; the displacement of the pastosity indicates the presence of a problem. This is reinforced by the lightness and width and transposed pressure in the lower zone.


help me to fix this neck on the
bells if I bought it down.
I got my Patriachial Blessing Yesterday
Do you still have Louis, Mom?
Can you think of a good solo that
I might try this Disaster?
Maybe Dad would compose one
for me.(?)
I have heard one complaint that
I have about the CW's radio.

While masturbation appears to be sinful in some religions today and, in the early decades of this country's history, had been thought to cause illness or blindness, recent statistical research studies indicate that a conservative estimate of the number of males who indulge in this form of sexual release is approximately 92% of the population. Male masturbatory practices reach their zenith of activity between the ages of 17-21 although some current studies indicate that it continues after marriage as often as three times weekly in addition to regular marital coitus.

In a research study of unmarried and married students' attitudes about sex, published in 1971, Dr. Donald Mosher discovered that (reverting to the "romance" theme of early history), women responded more positively to films of couples petting while men responded more positively to films of couples having explicit sexual intercourse.

In the Mosher study, high guilt men were found to be less likely to voluntarily seek out pornography but among the married males, they were more likely to respond favorably to the explicit sex films that were shown to them in the study. Interestingly, also, they reported a higher frequency of masturbation than the low sex guilt males.

High sex guilt females in the same study were found to be totally disinterested in pornography [illegible] so case would they seek it voluntarily. However, [illegible] reported genital sensations when viewing the "petting [illegible]

Another study, published in 1972, seems to find the same results. Dr. James E. DeBurger re[illegible] sex in troubled marriages and found that females seem more overtly concerned with romanticism and males with eroticism. In defining the problems in troubled marriages, the wife usually described them as affectional and the husband defined them as sexual.

Some general conclusions drawn from these and other studies indicate that people high in sex guilt had less body contact in their childhood, were trained in modesty and sex discussions were avoided. No labels were attached to sexual feelings or sex organs. Sex was treated as indecent or sinful.

People high in sex guilt were found to endorse conservative standards of behavior for everyone and were unlikely to engage in premarital sex behavior with a member of the opposite sex. Intercourse was viewed as an affirmation of one's masculinity or femininity. Avoidance or revulsion for sex correlated with dislike of one's role. More wives than husbands reported feeling degraded by their mates.

High sex guilt appears in all of the writing specimens in this paper. Guilt appears whenever a sexual behavior problem exists. An analyst can easily define the existence of problems but it is wise to avoid statements of specific nature. As will be shown, how a problem is dealt with by a given individual is related to conditioning influences, religious upbringing and enculturation.

Albert Ellis says that, since man is a psychological as well as a physiological being, sexual behavior today is interpersonal as well as intrapersonal. What people say to eachother, how they feel about their relationship and what portion sex holds in their lives is all part of today's behavior. In today's view, no given act of human sexuality is perverted unless the psychological motive behind it is perverted.

INFLUENCE OF THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

In addition to the religious-cultural attitudes that influence sexual behaviors, the central nervous system exerts a primarily inhibitory force related to frigidity and impotence.

The central nervous system consists of brain and spinal cord; peripheral nervous system which consists of nerves connecting to body muscles, joints, external organs, skin, etc.; and the autonomic nervous system which controls circulation, respiration, digestion, etc. The peripheral system participates through what one sees, hears, smells and feels. The autonomic nervous system has a primarily inhibitory effect causing impotence in a man if he fears failure, detection, causing a pregnancy, or is overcome with any other form of fear. It will cause frigidity in a woman if she fears pregnancy, detection, is guilty or has any other fear or distraction.

Given a normal, healthy male, only powerful emotions of a strongly inhibitory nature can prevent sexual readiness of which there are two kinds: (1) cerebral, which results from impulses passing down from the higher brain to the lower or (2) tactile - especially in the middle years. This is more stable throughout life than the cerebral type.

Aside from lesions or defect in the central nervous system that may cause frigidity in a woman, there are general organic problems that can interfere. Some of these are diabetes, anemia, fatigue, heart disorder, serious nutritional lack or a deficiency of male sex hormone. Relationship causes are another area where frigidity may be explained. In these, emotions of love, hate, resentment, anger, all play a part.

Psychological feelings of shame, guilt, inadequacy, or feelings of sinfulness in the eyes of God can also account for female frigidity and, in lesser numbers, accounts for male impotence.

Ignorance is another factor that is important with regard to female sexuality. With a very traditional upbringing, the woman may fear her mate's disapproval or she may fear her own lack of self control. She may fear responses that are natural, not knowing they are natural and seek to suppress them.

In sexual behavior for both males and females, arousal and satisfaction are not a function of physical stimulation alone but are largely cerebral functions mediated through the central nervous system. What each imagines while engaged in the behavior is important; and persistent ideation is important.

In all of this, I see the importance of analysts taking into consideration the whole writing when determining sexual behavior. The upper or intellectual zone and imagery is as important as activity and desire manifest in the lower zone. Guilts, angers, repressions, anxiety, isolation, etc. manifest in the middle zone or the area of interpersonal relationships, is of great importance for the female although of lesser importance for the male.

Ideas that psychoanalysts and graphologists have embraced for decades are slowly fading in contemporary times. Fromm

at one time viewed differences between the sexes as biologically related personality differences. He saw the fundamental difference as dominance and achievement in males and dependency in females, neglecting the cultural factors that built those characteristics. Numerous psychological tests also tested for those factors.

Graphologists have viewed the ideal mated pair as dominance-passive with male writing ideally being linear and female writing appearing pictorial or rounded. Yet, early in this century, the Spencerian hand taught in the school system was modified for females, in effect teaching males one writing style and females another.

I see as more important a matching of drive and desire. A couple with good intellectual development and emotional security can develop good communication patterns and work out whatever differences exist in their sexual behavior and needs. A couple with low desire and/or high control can have as satisfactory a marriage as a couple with high desire and/or low control. Problems appear when couples are mis-matched.

In the following case histories and writing samples, mismatched couples prevail because these, unfortunately, are the ones who seek counseling. The subjects' names have been changed for increased anonymity.

BETTY AND JIM

Conflicts, arguments, mis-understanding and generally poor communication were the main complaints between this husband and wife. Personality characteristics that are indirectly related to their sexual behavior are causing them problems in this area of their lives as well as in their daily living.

He is demanding and authoritarian (angularity and sharpness plus pressure and variable middle zone heights/widths). She is emotionally reactive and anxious (right slant, retraced ovals, very small personal pronoun I height.) Both show a lack of sexual satisfaction in the incomplete or lacking lower zone loops; both show a lack of ability to think of the other person instead of their own self concern.

Due to the fact that neither one was over-desireous of sex (lack of: lower zone emphasis, excessive pressure, excessive pastosity, extreme widths of upper or lower loops, initial hooks; and writingsthat contain a great deal of retracing), this side of their life would be conventional, generally unrewarding, and subject to their moods and other factors in their daily lives.

From this point of view, Betty and Jim are more representative of the average conventional couple locked into a conservative life style.

BETTY

I did. Gary was a very quite boy as he was just layed down & ignored quite a bit. And the boy was born 11 months after Gary, who took not like his dad and everybody and it showed actually Gary was again ignored because of a

JIM

The most I want my handwriting analyzed in relation to my wife is that I know that I sometimes say and do things that cause her to become upset. She is very excitable and has a very short fuse.

The following couple were living together for two years when they came for counseling. At the outset, he wanted to marry her, but she was fearful of marrying him because of two earlier failures.

In their sexual relationship, he was demanding and had high desire; she was frigid and often only complied to please him. Frequently, she would jump out of bed and stay up or sleep in a chair rather than comply. Both of them were unhappy about her behavior and she wanted very much to correct it.

Their other problems, which also indirectly influenced their sexual relationship, were family ones. She had two boys from her two former marriages. He did not know how to behave with the children. They also had different cultural and educational backgrounds, as well as different goals in life.

JEAN

I ought really turned out better than I imagined that it would. More than anything a happy marriage & family I would like. I've got over the fears of my past

ROBERT

I'd like this counseling to help us along better and change our ways doing things. I really had a fe eling about coming here tonight but a ing here and relaxing i feel like i going to be of great help to all,

A large part of their difficulty was that she had romanticized him into someone he actually was not. She was mothering him; he was dependent on her. She was constantly tense and nervous; he was passive, apathetic and easily led.

Jean had a preoccupation with sexual behavior (the exaggerated lower loop widths) but it was only a preoccupation, not an actual desire (the retraced ovals, wide widths between letters and words, retraced middle and upper zone letter forms).

Robert's ego was involved and feelings of masculinity - role playing - where their sexual relationship existed. His drive was cerebral and egotistical. The physical desire and energy was not there (lack of pressure in the lower zone, lack of loops going up to middle zone baseline; varying heights and styles of personal pronoun I; varying heights of middle zone forms; compressed middle zone widths; broad upper zone widths). In addition, evidence of sexual problems or distortions appear in the figure eight forms on some of the middle zone ovals such as in the word "and" 2nd line; "had a" 3rd line; "all" 6th line.

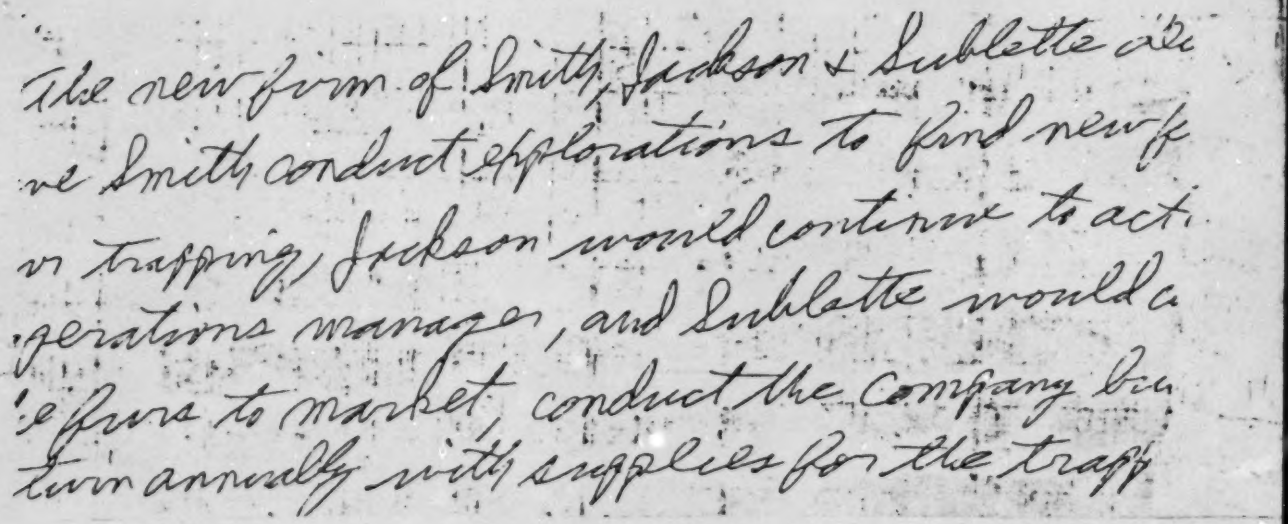
After nearly a year of counseling, this couple broke up, aware they were not suited to eachother. Each had been seeking from the other ego reinforcement, wanting the other to supply what they lacked, yet unable to give. They remained friends and, recently, three years later, she has been invited to his wedding. She is genuinely happy for him. She says that she thinks she will never remarry again. Her life at the present is devoted to working, going to school to further herself in her profession and to rearing her two sons.

This next couple not only had sexual behavior problems but they had role playing problems in addition to great differences in their personalities. Yet, one of the conditions of coming to me was that they wanted to find a way to make a go of their marriage.

When asked to write out their problem and reason for coming, Madilyn wrote at length about their conflicts as well as their reasons for staying together. John wrote about something historical.

This was a typical unrealistic response which he habitually employed in a variety of their relationships. He had formed a habit of psychically escaping his wife although he remained physically. He was neurotic (brittle looking writing with variable secondary pressure, variable letter widths, word endings that do not reach baseline ["would, 3rd line; "and", 4th line] and step up alignment). In his case, his age was important. At 48, he was without a job and had a history of undertaking a number of costly "wild goose chases" in an effort to do something prestigious. His wife supported the family by baby-sitting.

JOHN



This writer is passive (light primary pressure, variable seccondary pressure, brittle appearance, weak ending strokes, weak t-crossings, step up alignment). Passivity is a defense. His ego can stand no more stress. There is little to no sexual desire (variable lower zone lengths, retracing, poor pressure and the fact his ego can stand no more stress. In fact, this writer and his wife seldom have coitus but infrequently "pet". She is afraid of having more children and believes a sexual relationship should be for the purpose of procreation.

In Madilyn's writing, which follows, there appears the same sort of fears, repressions, and lack of developed lower zone, and insufficient energy that are found in his writing. From this point of view, they are sexually pretty well matched.

MADILYN

ither. We need each other for many rea
e have become each other's worst enemi
him feel inadequate because I (pus
ly to make him be the man of the hou
d & father and head of me.

The next writing is Madilyn's, written almost a year later after she had learned to accept her husband as he was and to accept the role of breadwinner for the family. He did not change. She did. Note the additional energy (heavier downstrokes in the lower zone, increased pressure, larger writing size overall with few flattened ovals.

- was not working. It
is almost a year now... He is
doing research to write a book.
He has been working on our hous

MARILYN'S WRITING A YEAR LATER

Here is another case of the wife's change improving the marriage relationship. Oftentimes, sexual behavior figures in a problem marriage. Research claims it accounts for 50% of the problems. However, if other interpersonal conflicts can be worked out or if one mate can change their own attitude, the lack of sexual satisfaction in marriage may often be compensated for.

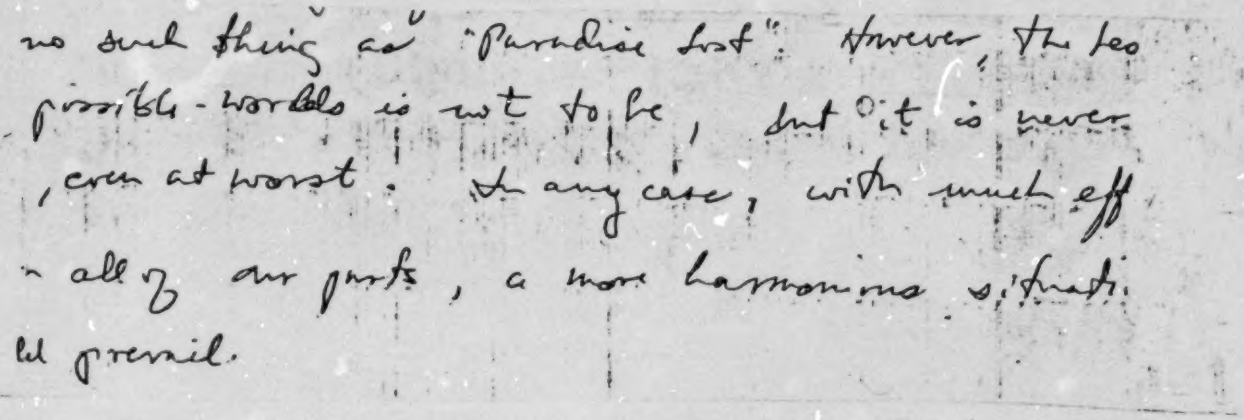
AGNES

Yes, there have been areas where I
ave been quite tense recently. Marital
roblems, omnipresent, reached a head, and
had a talk with a lawyer. My husband
as tried very hard to allay the basic

The excessive elaboration in the middle zone, and the effect of all the resulting unnecessary loops, plus the convex alignment, caused her to attribute motives to her husband's be-

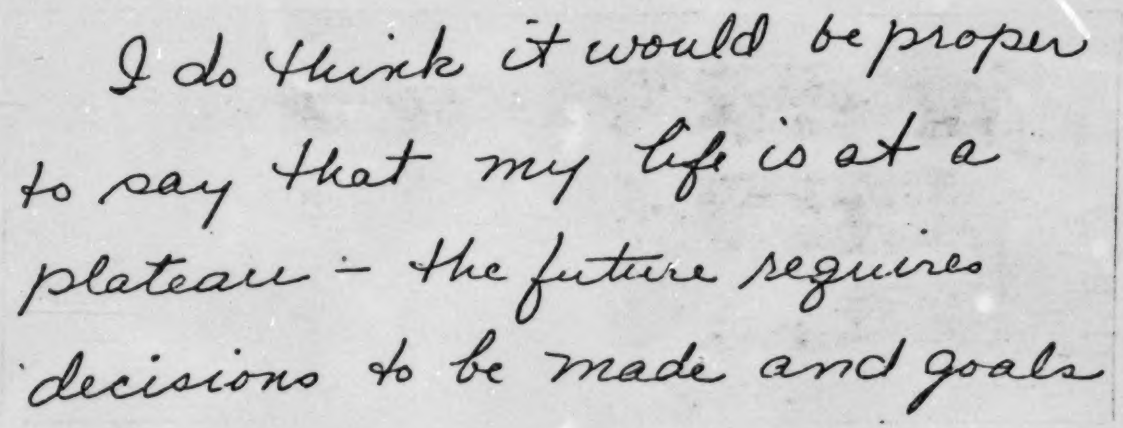
naviors that were untrue. She was a "people person". Her interest in and need for interpersonal relationships is seen in her relatively large middle zone height, close word spacing, elaboration, lower zone length, lower zone width, connected writing and flourishes.

JOSEPH



Joseph does not need people; can, in fact, forget they exist entirely as he loses himself in his work. He is not good at relating to another person, at physical contact, at romanticism in marriage, all of which his wife needs and craves. Due to inhibitions, he has very little sexual desire. Note the frequent arcade letter and connective formations such as in "from" 4th line; wide word spacing; wide baseline spacing; narrow or retraced ovals; variable lower zone lengths.

The next writing is Agnes' more simplified script after several months of graphotherapy. It has given her new perspectives and attitudes with regard to her marriage.



Two other mis-matched people ended in the divorce courts. They were different in personality as well as in sexual attitudes and needs. She was guilt ridden, very traditional, lacking in sexual desire, lacking in feelings of adequacy, and anxious. Note the straight lower zone lengths, retraced or flattened ovals, varying middle zone heights and widths. She has many initial hooks, indicating unfulfilled emotional needs.

BETTY

the chance of things continuing as they were.
- nely and that is ~~God~~ sure nice.
would ~~f~~ love to not use force. or ~~alone~~ conti
verbally attack us at ~~home~~ home.
to cusp continuity doctrine about our ~~d~~ chance

FRANK

The husband's own needs and desires were important to him. He had little feeling or understanding for his wife's wishes or for realizing where she was coming from. He wanted oral sex with his wife which she said repulsed her, yet he continued to urge it on her until she went to the Bishop about it. His inability to relate to his wife and her needs in a sympathetic manner can be noted in the excessive disconnections which disturb the "bridge in interpersonal relationships", the large middle zone height, frequent sharpness and linear writing. The pressure was so heavy it went through three carbons, indicating physical energy and virility. This is reinforced by the rhythmical secondary pressure indicating good health.

She has trouble living with a
iortal man who lives and act
rightcously. She thinks tha
ie must go to any lenghts to
ontrol him and make him "righ
She think that she ~~must sacri~~
~~herself~~, her husband, and childr.
~~x~~ must sacrifice all pleasure h.
n earth in order to reach salva
nd eternal life.

In graphology research which contains references to sexual behavior, emotional disturbance is mentioned in relation to sex. S. Schryver, in an article entitled "Psychomotility of Behavior Disorders Seen in the Handwritings of Children, commented that in the case of sex offenders, children whose problems were related to emotional instability produced regular, harmonic writing specimens. The writing characteristics were well integrated and showed particularly good organization in space distribution. Dr. Schryver hypothesized that the excellent organization in the specimens was a result of the tendency of children to hide their abnormalities. Her study was based on 100 children, ages 7-12, in the Children's Ward of the Bellevue Psychiatric Hospital.

Max Bruck, in an article entitled "Methodological Aspects of Psychiatric Research in Handwriting" comments upon certain characteristics being normal in the handwriting of children during puberty, but the same characteristics are abnormal in adults' writings. These are flooded ovals, long initial strokes on words, flourished, left tending strokes and sudden widths of loops.

In the same article, Dr. Bruck described the narcissistic-masochistic character as one whose writing is identified by a brittleness in appearance, extreme narrowness, immoderate middle zone height in relation to the upper zone heights and includes over-extension of lower zone formations.

Klara G. Roman, in her book, "Handwriting: A Key to Personality" reports a study of 2145 Hungarian school children including 77 juvenile delinquents. Her study investigated the effects of speed and pressure on different age levels and sexes over a number of years. Dr. Roman noted that poor pressure was apparently characteristic for delinquent girls who had been committed for sexual offenses.

In his book, "Diagrams of the Unconscious", Dr. Werner Wolff commented that , "...the transposition of pressure frequently seems to be a symptom of transposed sexual urges."

If one accepts the hypothesis that the whole personality influences sexual attitudes and behavior, that the individual is a result of psychological, physiological, biological and cultural input, then every area of handwriting should be considered when diagnosing control and desire, problems or normalcy in sexual attitudes.

The following scoring criteria is a methodological approach to ascertaining specific degrees of strength for both desire and control. It should be used in conjunction with other estimates of emotional and intellectual maturity in order to obtain a view of the individual in total perspective.

EQUAL WEIGHT SCORING CRITERIA

DESIRE

LZ margin emphasized
LZ length more than 2½ x MZ
LZ overlaps succeeding MZ
LZW is 1-3 x MZ
LZ loop reaches baseline
LZ loop right tending
LZ loop fluid form
LZ loop overlaps own MZ
LZ form distorted
LZ form figure eight
LZ form angular
LZ downslant compatible with MZ
MZ ovals figure eight
MZ forms right tending
MZ ovals elaborated
MZ initial hooks
MZ finals end in LZ
MZ finals end in UZ
MZ upslant 125° or higher
MZ downslant 125° or higher
MZ mode 3.0 - 4.0 mm and regular
Ovals ratio is 1:1
Symmetry is 1:1:2 or 1:2:1
ES spacing (-2.0) - (-9.0)
d-height is 3-4 x oval
UZW is 1-2 x MZ
Inky deposits on ductus
Corrugated ductus
Rhythmical pressure
Displaced pressure LZ to MZ
Baseline pressure only
Secondary pressure emphasized in LZ
Increased pressure on LZ downstroke
Heavy primary pressure
Pastosity in all zones
Pastose ductus
Pastosity in MZ and LZ only
PPI width constricted
PPI balanced in width and height
Signature emphasized
Given name emphasized

Females only

Light primary pressure
Flourished writing
PPI form bowed

REPRESSION

LZ lengths extremely variable
LZ length ½ - 1 x MZ
LZW extremely variable
LZW retraced
LZ unlooped starting word
LZ unlooped mid-word
LZ return stroke only reaches MZ
LZ form left tending
LZ form skeletal
LZ form segmented
LZ form tied below baseline
LZ form angular
LZ form garlanded
LZ form arcaded
LZ form corrected
LZ form directional pressure
MZ forms retraced
MZ forms left tending
MZ forms flattened
MZ upstrokes dropped
MZ ovals angular at base
MZ ovals flattened
MZ ovals retraced
Ovals ratio is 1:¼ or 1:½
Symmetry is 1:2:1 or 1:4:4
ES spacing (+1.5) - (+9.0)
MZ initial arcades
MZ finals left slanted
MZ/UZ forms fail to reach baseline
WS variable
LTS broad with retraced forms
WS broad
MZ upslant 40° to 90°
MZ downslant 40° to 90°
Sharp ductus
Brittle ductus
Arhythmical secondary pressure
Decreased pressure on downstrokes
Primary pressure extremely light
Pastosity in MZ and UZ only
Extremely regulated writing
d and t widths 1 - 2 x MZ
UZ retraced

Males Only

MZ mode is 1.5 mm or less
PPI height constricted
PPI width constricted
Family name emphasized

CONVERSION TABLE

Each of the criteria found should be scored one point. The number of points head each of the seven columns that follow. Standard deviations from the mean run from -3 to +3 with the center column the mean or average.

Definitions provided in each of the seven columns are for guidance purposes only. The results of scoring the sexual behavior criteria should be judged according to the mental and emotional development of the individual. Age and health factors should also be considered.

DESIRE

04	06	08	11	12	14	16
glandular	low drive low vitality cool	aesthetic placid	warm responsive	exciteable romantic erotic	high drive ardent sensuous	glandular preoccupation

CONTROL

20	15	12	08	07	05	03
anxiety frigidity impotence	repressed inhibited high guilt self critical	traditional self control self conscious passive	conformist conventional	dominant aggressive spontaneous responsive expressive demonstrative	unconventional non-conformist low guilt	uninhibited promiscuous self indulgent

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